

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 26, 1998

**TO:** Bridge, Roadway Design, and Planning & Research Divisions

**FROM:** Dale F. Loe, Assistant Chief Engineer-Design

**SUBJECT:** Painted Median Width

Upon review of the performance history of our facilities having a 6-foot painted median, it has been determined that a change in concept is appropriate. Available crash data indicates that the operational safety of our five lane rural sections is superior to that to the 6-foot painted median sections. Limited research from Texas indicates that where the number of intersecting drives is greater than nine per mile, a turn lane is superior to a narrow painted median.

Based on our review, the painted median will be replaced with an 11-foot turn lane. This change should be made effective with the jobs scheduled for the September 1998 letting.

Further guidance will be issued regarding those projects having painted medians which are now under construction.

Please take the necessary action to implement this change.

c: Director  
Chief Engineer  
Assistant Chief Engineer-Operations  
Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning  
Construction  
District Engineers  
Maintenance  
FHWA